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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FLM 3-52 April 7, 1952

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1951 AND 1952

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1952 are estimated at a record level of 821 million head by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This represents a moderate increase over the revised estimate of 808 million head for the beginning of 1951 and is appreciably above the 1936-40 average of 743 million head. Some increase in world cattle numbers is in prospect during 1952; however, the pressure of cattle inventories on feed and forage resources in many important cattle countries may restrict much further expansion of herds.

Increases in cattle numbers from 1951 were reported in North America, Europe, and Asia while slight decreases occurred in South America and Oceania. The tightening feed and forage situation and the severe outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease which occurred in many of the European countries during the later half of 1951 limited expansion. These increases were largely accounted for by favorable feed and forage conditions and the continuing strong demand for beef. In Argentina, cattle numbers continued to decline from the peak of 1948 as the result of several years of severe droughts and relatively unfavorable prices for beef. Cattle numbers in Australia suffered some decline in late 1951 due to losses from drought and bush fires. Cattle numbers in the Balkan countries and the Soviet Union were estimated to have increased slightly during 1951.

CATTLE: Estimated world total, by continents,
average 1936-40, annual 1951 and 1952

Continent or area	Average 1936-40	1951 1/	1952 1/	Increase (+) or decrease (-) 1952 / 1936-40	1952 / 1951
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
North America	96,700	116,500	123,100	+ 27	+ 6
Europe	102,900	99,500	100,600	- 2	+ 1
Soviet Union	59,800	57,200	58,800	- 2	+ 3
Asia	295,600	287,100	291,200	- 1	+ 1
South America	105,600	132,400	131,900	+ 25	--
Africa	64,400	95,200	95,200	+ 48	--
Oceania	18,100	20,600	20,300	+ 12	- 1
Total	743,100	808,500	821,100	+ 12	+ 2

1/ Preliminary

Cattle Situation in Selected Countries

North America

The 88.1 million cattle and calves reported on farms and ranches in the United States on January 1, 1952 were 7 percent more than a year earlier and a new high, 2½ million above the previous record of 1945. The number has increased each year since 1949 but the gain in 1951 was the largest increase ever registered in a single year. The recent expansion in cattle numbers is largely restricted to the beef classes. The number of milk cows has decreased each year since 1945 even though the total number of milk animals has increased each year since 1949. With dairy cows down 4.4 million head and beef cows up 4.2 million head since 1945, it is evident that there has been a very substantial shift from dairying to beef production. The expansion in beef cattle numbers resulted from strong demand and favorable prices; from shifts out of cash crops in some areas in the South; and from improvements in forage production in many areas. Moreover, the expansion resumes a long-run uptrend in cattle numbers that has been made possible to a large extent by the decline in numbers of workstock on farms which has released considerable amounts of feed and pasture for use by other livestock. From 1942 through 1949 declining numbers of sheep also increased the feed and pasture available to cattle.

The number of cattle on farms in Canada on December 1, 1951 was estimated at 9 million or 8 percent above that of a year earlier. This increase has resulted from strong demand and favorable prices for beef and to the currently large supplies of feed grains. Exports of live cattle to the United States during 1951 were 50 percent below those of 1950 (see following table). This reduction in cattle exports to the United States was due to the price structure, considering tariff, freight and currency exchange adjustments for exports, being relatively the same in both countries. For the first time in many years, cattle and beef were imported from the United States. During the last few days of December and the first 10 days of January 1951-52, a total of about 1,315 head of live cattle and 960,000 pounds of dressed beef moved into Eastern Canada from the United States.

CANADA: Exports of cattle to the United States, 1950 and 1951, preliminary

Item	1950	1951	Percent change
	Head	Head	
Beef cattle	352,957	154,978	- 55
Calves	26,445	12,066	- 54
Dairy and purebreds	67,900	55,449	- 18
Total	447,302	222,493	- 50

In Mexico, cattle numbers are estimated to be increasing. Recovery from foot-and-mouth disease, general national economic expansion resulting in a growing demand for meat, improve marketing and transportation facilities, and improve animal husbandry practices have contributed to the increase in livestock numbers. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in August 1951 in the State of Veracruz was the first outbreak since December 1950 and was promptly brought under control. Barring further outbreaks of the disease and if present favorable conditions continue, Mexico will be declared free of foot-and-mouth disease for the first time in almost five years and the United States border may be opened to exports of live cattle from Mexico on September 1, 1952. However, there has been developed a sizeable meat packing industry in Mexico and the cattle ranches have changed from selling feeder cattle for export to selling 2 to 3 year old grass fattened cattle to the packing plants. Thus, it is believed that live cattle exports to the United States will be less the approximately 400,000 head shipped annually during 1941-42 through 1945-46.

In Cuba cattle numbers on January 1, 1952 were estimated to be about 2 percent below those of a year earlier. Cattlemen, discouraged by the Cuban Government's refusal to raise the ceiling price on live cattle from 12 cents per pound, have shown less interest in beef cattle production, and, in some cases, have turned to more profitable enterprises.

South America

Argentine cattle numbers continued the down trend from the peak of 1948 and at the beginning of 1952 were estimated at about 1 percent less than for a year earlier. This decline over the past few years had been largely due to severe droughts and to governmental price policies which have tended to make agriculture generally less profitable than in former years. At the beginning of 1952 pastures were generally fair except in the southern part of Buenos Aires province where they were rather dry.

Cattle numbers in Brazil are estimated to have increased nearly 14 percent during the last few years from the level of 46 million head during 1947-49. Generally good pasture conditions during the last few years, despite occasional droughts, and increasing demand in the domestic market have been the major factors in the increases of cattle.

Cattle numbers in Uruguay at the end of 1951 were estimated at approximately 8 million head or slightly below the 8.2 million reported in the May 1951 census. This decrease is due to a continued high rate of slaughter and a reduction of cattle numbers in favor of increased sheep numbers. It is expected that the trend to sheep ranching at the expense of cattle ranching will be slowed in 1952 due to lower wool prices and that cattle numbers may show a slight increase.

Europe

In the United Kingdom cattle numbers in June 1951 were down 147,000 head from one year earlier. In September 1951 cattle numbers were down seasonally slightly more than usual. All of this decline was in dairy cattle (which account for about 43 percent of the total cattle) since numbers of other cattle increased by a few thousand head. The lower number of dairy animals is attributed to the relatively small increase of milk prices compared with the increase of meat animal prices at the February 1951 price review. It is expected that the number of dairy cattle will remain unchanged or even decline slightly during 1952 unless price relationships change.

In Ireland total cattle numbers on June 1, 1951 were slightly above those of a year earlier. This increase reflected a 7 percent increase in numbers of 2 and 3 year old beef cattle since the numbers of milk cows, heifers in calf, bulls, and calves all were less than for the 1950 census. Prospects for any further increase in cattle numbers will depend upon the existence of suitable markets for cattle, meat and dairy products. The renewal and revision of the contract with the United Kingdom and expansion of the beef trade with the United States will be major factors in this marketing problem.

In Denmark cattle numbers on December 31, 1951 were reported at 1.5 percent below those of one year earlier. This reduction in numbers may be attributed to the extraordinary increase in the normal seasonal rise in sale of cattle for slaughter. This increase in slaughter is due to the severe outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which by December 20, 1951 had attacked 17,935 herds or 8.6 percent of the Danish farms.

In Norway cattle numbers as of June 20, 1951 were reported to be slightly less than for one year earlier. It is probable that numbers have decreased further during the 1951-52 production year as a result of the heavy forced marketing of cattle during the last months of 1951 and the early months of 1952. The forced marketing was due to the feed shortage caused by the short hay crop in 1951. Since the heavy outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Denmark, the country from which Norway has occasionally received small supplies of meat, there have been no imports of meat or cattle into Norway. During December 1951 and January 1952, foot-and-mouth disease was reported in 4 herds near the southern border of Norway. Stringent measures were taken to control these outbreaks and as of February 18, 1952 no new outbreaks have been reported.

In Belgium cattle numbers on January 1, 1952 were more than 3 percent above those of a year earlier. Some of the increase was due to higher prices and the expectation of further price increases which caused farmers to save more cattle than usual. Good pastures throughout the year also encouraged increased cattle numbers. Feed prospects for the remainder of 1952 appear good since supplies of feed and forage crops at the beginning of the year were adequate.

In France cattle numbers on October 1, 1951 were reported to be 2 percent more than for a year earlier. There were slightly less bulls, draft oxen and steers over 2 years old but the number of cows and young stock showed an increase of 2 to 4 percent. The number of milk cows increased from 5.6 million to 5.8 million head during the year ending October 1, 1951. This increase in cattle numbers is attributed to the higher prices during 1951 for livestock and meat and to the ample feed supplies. The incidence of foot-and-mouth disease is high in France and as of February 1952 was still increasing.

In Western Germany cattle numbers in December 1951 were slightly above a year earlier with the main increase being in calves and young female stock. During 1951 pasture conditions and roughage supplies were excellent but feed grains were in short supply and are expected to remain scarce during coming months. A severe epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease broke out in late July of 1951 and reached a peak in November. By the end of the year about 10 percent of all cattle farms had been infected. Considerable progress has been reported in the tuberculosis eradication and artificial insemination programs.

In Australia cattle numbers in March 1952 were estimated to be 2 percent below those of one year earlier. It is expected that there will be a further decline during 1952 due to the very heavy losses in cattle and the prospective calf crop as a result of the disastrous drought and bush fires during the 1951-52 season.

In New Zealand cattle numbers are believed to have increased during 1951 due to the exceptionally good grazing conditions throughout the year except during the June-August winter months. Pastures have been reported to be in fair to good condition in the early months of 1952 and it is expected that cattle numbers will show a further increase during the year.

In the Union of South Africa cattle numbers continued to decline due to relatively low prices to producers and to heavy marketings in late December as a result of the prolonged drought. The government controlled price for beef was increased in late 1951 and it is expected that the downward trend in cattle numbers will be halted.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1947-1952

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951 2/	1952 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	9,103	9,016	8,944	8,251	8,243	8,292	8,962
Costa Rica		366	415	-	506	-	592	675	-
El Salvador	July	680	714	686	765	-	-	1/ 800	-
Guatemala	July	520	4/ 657	-	1/ 901	-	899	-	-
Honduras	July	524	4/ 674	1,050	-	1,000	950	-	-
Mexico	Dec.31 1/	4/5/ 11,716	4/ 11,959	-	-	14,500	14,500	14,600	-
Nicaragua		4/ 800	-	-	1,200	-	1,275	1,275	1,250
United States	Jan. 1	66,706	79,978	80,554	77,171	76,830	77,963	82,025	88,062
Cuba	Dec.31 1/	5,024	4/ 4,823	6/	-	-	4,550	4,600	4,500
Dominican Republic	June	4/ 885	-	-	-	-	887	-	-
Estimated total		96,700	111,300	114,700	111,900	112,100	112,200	116,500	123,100
EUROPE									
Albania		4/ 413	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	Dec. 1 1/	4/ 2,600	2,530	8/ 2,206	8/ 2,158	8/ 2,109	8/ 2,203	8/ 2,281	8/ 2,284
Belgium	Jan. 1	1/ 1,724	1,565	1,652	1,588	1,688	1,902	2,020	2,090
Bulgaria 7/	Dec.31 1/	4/ 1,864	1,988	2,005	-	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	4/ 4,475	4,403	3,975	3,275	3,663	4,140	-	-
Denmark	Dec.31 1/	3,108	2,908	9/ 3,004	9/ 2,668	9/ 2,751	9/ 2,886	9/ 2,974	9/ 2,932
Finland	Mar. 1	10/ 1,850	1,682	1,566	1,452	1,542	5/ 1,757	-	-
France	Fall 1/	15,504	8/ 15,217	15,100	15,125	15,434	15,404	15,801	16,161
Germany-Western	Dec. 1 1/	4/ 12,114	11,585	11,185	10,291	10,569	10,883	11,149	11,410
Greece 7/	Dec.31 1/	3/ 1,278	-	693	674	674	694	747	798
Hungary 7/	Spring	1,905	2,038	8/ 1,441	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	June	4,021	4,165	3,950	3,921	4,127	4,322	4,376	-
Italy	July	3/ 8,200	7,700	7,800	8,000	1/ 8,150	1/ 8,162	1/ 8,325	-
Luxembourg	Dec. 1 1/	4/ 108	4/ 118	117	114	111	115	118	120
Netherlands	May	2,693	2,325	2,367	2,313	2,540	2,723	2,863	-
Norway	June 20	1,390	1,245	1,225	1,175	1,224	1,237	1,230	-
Poland	June 30	3/ 9,924	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	Dec.31 1/	11/ 905	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	1,075	-
Rumania 7/	Dec.31 1/	4/ 3,700	-	3,114	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec.31 1/	3/ 3,739	4/ 4,074	-	4,000	-	-	-	-
Sweden	Summer	2,959	2,759	2,797	2,625	2,584	2,648	2,633	-
Switzerland	April	1,663	1,510	1,451	1,424	1,478	1,530	1,607	1,620
United Kingdom	June	8,798	9,278	9,567	9,806	10,244	10,620	10,473	-
Yugoslavia 7/	Dec.31 1/	4,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		102,900	96,600	94,400	93,500	96,400	98,300	99,500	100,600
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	3/ 59,800	-	46,800	50,000	54,000	56,000	57,200	58,800
ASIA									
Iran	March	4/ 2,797	4/ 2,135	-	-	-	3,500	3,600	-
Iraq 7/		-	3/ 890	-	-	952	1,236	-	-
Turkey 7/	Dec.31 1/	8,611	10,544	10,663	10,708	11,216	11,118	11,136	-
Burma 7/	Dec.31 1/	6,165	4/ 5,143	4,796	5,209	-	5,500	-	-
Ceylon 7/	Dec.31 1/	1,625	1,670	1,602	1,740	1,792	1,795	1,628	-
China 12/	May	25,000	23,500	23,600	-	-	-	-	-
India 7/	Jan. 1	3/ 180,000	4/ 177,000	-	-	-	-	180,200	183,800

ASIA (Continued)									
Japan	Feb. 1	1/ 1,798	2,261	1,989	2,103	2,294	2,489	2,497	-
Formosa 7/	Dec.31 1/	354	315	280	298	310	357	-	-
Korea-South	Dec.31 1/	4/ 922	965	609	645	684	-	-	-
Indonesia 7/	Dec.31 1/	7,669	-	6,290	-	-	6,370	6,390	-
Pakistan 7/	Jan. 1	3/ 33,000	3/ 31,500	-	31,000	-	-	-	-
Philippines, Rep. of 7/	Jan. 1	4/ 4,340	-	-	-	2,477	2,601	3,058	3,450
Siam 7/	Mar.31	11,303	-	7,544	-	8,000	-	-	-
Estimated total 13/		295,600	286,500	281,500	282,000	285,300	287,000	287,100	291,200
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	4/ 33,762	4/ 33,073	14/ 42,259	43,000	42,000	39,000	38,000	37,500
Bolivia	Dec.31 1/	4/ 1,921	3/ 2,445	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brazil		4/ 40,807	4/ 43,950	1/ 46,358	46,000	46,250	-	1/ 52,655	-
Chile	June	2,489	2,363	2,338	2,310	2,344	2,331	-	-
Colombia	Dec.31 1/	4/ 8,010	4/ 11,012	13,797	13,893	14,538	15,513	15,512	-
Ecuador		4/ 1,300	4/ 1,174	-	1,520	-	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec.31 1/	4/ 3,259	4/ 3,808	4,100	-	4,087	3,865	3,870	-
Peru		-	4/ 2,376	-	2,662	-	-	2,900	-
Uruguay	May	3/ 8,297	3/ 6,256	-	-	8,700	1/ 8,600	8,194	-
Estimated total		105,600	110,600	127,000	128,200	129,100	128,800	132,400	131,900
AFRICA									
Algeria 15/	April	841	874	901	698	747	765	850	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		4/ 2,700	3/ 3,195	3,195	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya		4/ 5,239	4/ 4,771	4,774	5,589	5,612	5,550	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec.31 1/	5,000	5,687	6,420	6,370	6,425	-	6,253	-
Uganda	Mar.31	2,466	2,422	2,454	2,485	-	2,525	-	-
Egypt 7/	June	4/5/ 2,021	4/ 2,145	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia		-	-	-	-	-	20,000	25,000	-
French Morocco 7/	Dec.31 1/	1,970	2,506	1,395	1,326	1,549	1,762	1,942	2,000
Madagascar 15/	Dec.31 1/	5,172	5,780	5,806	5,737	5,603	5,633	5,663	-
Mozambique	Dec.31 1/	548	559	587	631	659	700	716	-
Northern Rhodesia	Dec.31 1/	618	647	699	770	807	879	-	-
Angola		3/ 2,306	3/ 2,687	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec.31 1/	2,340	2,669	2,905	2,748	2,822	3,004	2,981	-
Spanish Morocco		259	310	234	250	279	291	-	-
Tunisia 15/	Dec.31 1/	494	521	401	370	340	387	395	-
Union of South Africa	August	11,636	3/ 13,068	12,359	12,470	12,242	11,513	11,500	-
Estimated total		64,400	74,400	80,400	82,000	83,200	89,200	95,200	95,200
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar.31	1/ 13,285	13,828	13,427	13,785	14,124	14,640	15,230	14,900
New Zealand	Jan.31	4,449	4,524	4,634	4,716	4,723	4,949	-	-
Estimated total		18,100	18,800	18,400	18,900	19,200	20,000	20,600	20,300
Estimated world total		743,100	743,200	763,200	766,500	779,300	791,400	808,500	821,100

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1946 estimate of 9,016,000 head is shown under 1947. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Census or estimate for single year. 4/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 5/ June. 6/ Official census July 1, 1946, reported 4,136,000 head. 7/ Data include buffaloes. 8/ Official statistics; may be an under-estimate of actual numbers. 9/ Also includes number of cattle in towns, which totaled 50,000 head in 1947. 10/ September. 11/ Census December 31, 1934. 12/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces) Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 13/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 14/ Census, May 10 - 12, 1947. 15/ Data include only number taxed.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

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